

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-7, 10, 12-18, and 21-22 are pending in the present application after amendments. Claim 1 has been amended by inserting the limitations found in the originally filed claim 2 and the dependencies of claims 3-4 have been updated accordingly. Claims 2, 8-9, 11 and 19-20 have been cancelled without prejudice.

The amended set of claims correspond to the allowable subject matter of claims 2-4, 12-18, 21 and 22 as indicated in the final Office Action. Consequently, rejected claims 5-7 and 10 are now dependent, directly or indirectly, on the amended claim 1.

The applicant submits that this amendment after final rejection places this application in condition for allowance by amending claims in manners that are believed to render all pending claims allowable over the cited prior arts. The amendment was introduced to expedite the examination process and was not presented earlier because the applicant believed that the prior responses placed this application in condition for allowance, for at least the reasons discussed in those responses. The applicant still strongly disagrees with the

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examiner's observation in the final Office Action and reserves the rights to file a continuation application.

Information Disclosure Statement

Two foreign references (DE910515 and BE 542335) are cited on the European Search Report for the relevant European patent prosecution. Copies of the two foreign documents together with the European Search Report are enclosed herein, in order to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2 and 3). A concise explanation of the relevance of the cited foreign documents has been presented on the response to the previous Office Action, filed on 8/19/08. An information disclosure statement, complete with information on where relevant passages or figures appear, is also enclosed.

In light of the above observation, the applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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